THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for processing by a data processing system, said data comprising:

a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document information during its entire lifetime, comprising:

an object conveying document information,

processing information, and

metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information;

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and

wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed.

2.   (Original)   The meta-document of claim 1, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

3.   (Original)   The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

4.   (Original)   The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the application program is embedded on the meta-document.

6.   (Previously Presented)   In a data processing system, a computer-implemented method of managing a meta-document comprising:

storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information;

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and

wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed;

transmitting the meta-document to a source;

parsing the meta-document, at the source, for extracting stored processing information and metadata; and

storing processing information pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source and associated metadata on the meta-document.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein the meta-document further

comprises a tool, embedded on the object, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the tool.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein the source comprises a tool, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the tool.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 7, wherein the meta-document further comprises a second tool, embedded on the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein the source further comprises a second tool for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

11.   (Previously Presented)   A data processing system for managing document information comprising:

a memory storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying

document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed;

a processor for executing an application program for processing the meta-document; and

a plurality of sources, each source located at a different location,

wherein each time the meta-document is received by a source, processing information and its associated metadata is parsed and extracted from the meta-document at the source; and

processing information pertaining to transmitting the meta-document to the source and parsing at the source and associated metadata stored on the meta-document.

12.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

13.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

14.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

15.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the meta-document further comprises a tool, embedded on the object, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.

16.   (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein a source further comprises a tool, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.